

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3835

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NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, JO, EG, SY, SA, XF

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY

REF STATE 268177

1. REFTEL ARRIVED JUST IN TIME FOR ME TO MAKE DELIVERY TO MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HASSAN IBRAHIM AT A MEETING WHICH HAD BEEN SET UP FOR LATE MORNING NOVEMBER 9. THE LETTER HAS BEEN TECHNICALLY ADDRESSED TO PRIME MINISTER BADRAN AS FOREIGN MINISTER. I AM STANDING BY FOR A CALL ON HIM. AT IBRAHIM'S SUGGESTION I WILL ALSO PROVIDE A COPY TO ABDUL HAMID SHARAF, ROYAL COURT CHIEF. SHARAF, BADRAN AND IBRAHIM WILL BE MEETING BEFORE TOMORROW (NOVEMBER 10) TO WORK OUT FINAL COORDINATION OF JORDANIAN POLICY ON TUNIS FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING.

2. IBRAHIM READ THE LETTER THROUGH THOROUGHLY IN MY PRESENCE. HE THEN MADE A NUMBER OF POINTS. HE SAID AT THE LAST AL FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING SOME MONTHS

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AGO HE HAD MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF COORDINATION FOR GENEVA IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT. HE AND FAHMI HAD THEN AGREED IT BEST TO KEEP THE ISSUE FROM BEING DISCUSSED ANY MORE FULLY AT TUNIS. AT THAT POINT, AND IN SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS, KHADDAM HAD INDICATED THAT SYRIA WOULD PRESENT IN ITS PUBLIC ADDRESS ITS FULL POSITION ON GENEVA, BUT

WOULD NOT SEEK TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION OR DOCUMENT FOR ACTION. IBRAHIM NOTED HE WAS NOT FULLY CONFIDENT THAT SYRIA WOULD MAINTAIN THIS POSITION.

3. HE ASSURED ME THAT JORDAN WILL DO ITS BEST TO KEEP DISCUSSION FROM TAKING PLACE AS THE SECRETARY ASKS. HE BELIEVES EGYPT IS WITH THEM. HE HAS HEARD FROM KUWAITIS THAT THEY SUPPORT THIS ISSUE. SAUDIS WILL BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND CAN BRING ALONG GULF MINISTERS WHO TEND TO FORMULATE THEIR VIEWS IN A BLOCK. BUT EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT WILL BE ACTIONS KHADDAM WILL TAKE. IBRAHIM IS CONVINCED THAT PLO WILL PUSH VERY HARD FOR A STATEMENT OR RESOLUTION COMMITTING ALL THE ARAB MINISTERS TO A PLO DELEGATION IDEA. IN SUCH CASE, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE EGYPT, SYRIA AND SAUDI ARABIA STANDING FIRM AGAINST CONSIDERATION IF IT IS TO BE BLOCKED. IF ISSUE IS PUSHED HARD BY PLO, ARAB MINISTERS WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO WORK ON THE BASIS OF ACCEPTING SOME PROPOSAL AND IN SUCH CASE HE WOULD ENVISAGE THE EMERGENCE OF LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD TALK ABOUT "PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION" OR EVEN "PLO REPRESENTATION" IN AN ARAB DELEGATION, TRYING TO AVOID AN EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FORMULATION CENTERING AROUND THE ABSOLUTE DESIGNATION OF THE PLO AS THE PALESTINIAN DELEGATION WITHIN THE UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION OR
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AS THE EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS. IBRAHIM MADE CLEAR HE WAS ONLY DISCUSSING ALTERNATIVES AND THAT HE WAS SURE THAT HIS FIRM INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE TO AVOID ANY DISCUSSION AT ALL ON GENEVA. ONLY PLO AND LIBYA HAVE THUS FAR SUGGESTED GENEVA AGENDA ITEM FOR TUNIS DISCUSSIONS.

4. CONTINUING FURTHER, I ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ARAB SUMMIT. HE SAID IT WILL BE A DIFFICULT PROPOSITION TO AVOID. JORDAN'S LONG-STANDING POLICY IS ALWAYS TO TALK AND ALWAYS TO BE AVAILABLE TO ATTEND SUCH SESSIONS. EGYPT TOO WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY DUCKING THE ISSUE. PERHAPS EGYPT OR OTHERS CAN INSIST ON POSTPONING OF THE TIME OF A MEETING UNTIL THE SPRING OF 1978. HE SAID THE TIMING IS LIKELY TO PROVIDE MORE ROOM FOR MANEUVER THAN THE QUESTION OF HOLDING A SESSION.

5. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT JORDANIANS WILL GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO WHETHER THE AL FOREIGN MINISTERS IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER CAN PUT A LITTLE MORE STEAM BEHIND THE NOTION OF A CONFRONTATION STATE SUMMIT. SUCH MIGHT

HELP TO FINESSE TOO MANY SPECIFICS AT TUNIS REGARDING GENEVA
OTHER THAN RECOMMENDING A SUMMIT OF CONFRONTATION STATES
THE RESULTS OF WHICH THE OTHER ARAB STATES WOULD GO ALONG WITH.
HE RECALLED FOR ME THAT RABAT SUMMIT
CONFERENCE OF 1974 HAD MADE CONFRONTATION STATES SOLELY
RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCT OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.

6. COMMENT: JORDANIAN POSITION, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY,
IS EXTREMELY CLOSE TO OUR OWN. HOWEVER, THEIR
FINAL APPROACH OBVIOUSLY WILL BE KEYED TO SAILING
CAREFULLY BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA. BEHIND IT ALL,
IBRAHIM WILL BE PREPARED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH FAHMI
WHO HE BELIEVES SEES EYE-TO-EYE WITH HIM. HE HOPES
SAUDIS CAN BE HELPFUL WITH SYRIANS WHO WILL BE
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CRUCIAL IN CREATING THE KIND OF ARAB CONSENSUS WHICH
CAN STAND UP TO PLO, IRAQ, LIBYA AND OTHERS. THERE
IS OF COURSE THE FACT THAT THE ARAB REJECTIONISTS ARE
SEEMINGLY DEDICATED AGAINST ANY AND ALL NEGOTIATIONS
AND THIS FACTOR MIGHT INHIBIT THEIR BEING VERY FORWARD
ON THE ISSUE OF THE NATURE OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT
GENEVA.

7. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT REPEAT CAIRO, DAMASCUS,
AND JIDDA.
PICKERING

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